

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
AND DON KNABE

December 7, 2010

On November 5, 2010, the Board received a report from the Department of Public Health (DPH) in response to our July 6, 2010 motion regarding electronic music festivals, which are also referred to as “raves.” This report was the product of four months of effort on the part of DPH, the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD), along with other parties including the Coliseum Commission and event promoters, all of whom worked together to develop a set of recommendations to improve safety at these events. Among these are the following key recommendations that are fundamental to ensuring safety for all patrons at electronic music festivals or raves:

- conduct multi-agency pre-event planning
- conduct a threat assessment of each event and develop an Event Action Plan (EAP)

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- impose an 18-year minimum age requirement for all attendees
- require easily identifiable plastic/vinyl wristbands for attendees aged 21 and older
- institute cool down breaks during the event and a cool down period at the conclusion of the event (music sets/performances will conclude no later than 2:00 AM)
- distribute substance use prevention and harm reduction materials
- require key event staff including security and vendors to be briefed on signs and symptoms of drug overdose and heat related problems
- ensure the presence of onsite medical and health personnel
- develop and distribute a public service announcement concerning the dangers associated with the use of “ecstasy,” especially under conditions frequently encountered at raves
- draft an after action report following each rave event.

We applaud the departments as well as the industry for their collaborative work on this important issue.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Adopt the above key recommendations and the full list of recommendations from the Los Angeles County Task Force on Raves and Electronic Music Festivals (Task Force) as general policy direction for all electronic music festivals (or raves) in Los Angeles County, whether these events take place at private or public venues.
- (2) Instruct the Executive Office to send a five-signature letter to the promoters and sponsoring entities of all electronic music festivals held in Los Angeles County within the past five years, and of all such festivals currently planned; and to all electronic

music festival venue operators, law enforcement agencies, and emergency medical service providers within Los Angeles County, encouraging them to adopt and implement the above key recommendations and the full list of recommendations from the Task Force at all electronic music festivals held within Los Angeles County.

This letter should also include a copy of the November 5th report from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the full list of recommendations from the Task Force.

- (3) Instruct DPH to report back to the Board by September 30, 2011 with an evaluation of the success or failure of health and safety precautions implemented at all major electronic music festivals in Los Angeles County occurring between June 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011. This report should also examine whether the key recommendations were implemented and if safety was improved compared to previous events.